

for both the temple and for a permanent rabbinical residence.

On December 29, 1957, Temple Beth El formally opened its doors at a dedication ceremony led by the congregation's first spiritual leader, Rabbi Marc Samuels, a graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary and a Holocaust survivor. In attendance were the 52 original member families, the congregation's officers, and many other community leaders. At its inception the congregation chose to affiliate itself with the conservative Jewish movement. In 2000, in response to the wishes of its members, the Temple decided to become a reform congregation.

I am sure that my colleagues in the Senate join me in congratulating the leadership, congregants, and the greater Midland community as they continue to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Temple Beth El. Their rich history and commitment to service has greatly impacted the small, close-knit Jewish community in Midland. We all look forward to at least 50 more years of spiritual guidance and leadership.

TRIBUTE TO CURTIS STRANGE

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, today I wish to honor a man who is a close personal friend of mine but more importantly is admired by fans of the sport of golf around the world.

I wish to highlight the career of professional golfer Curtis Strange, who on November 12, 2007, was formally inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame.

I first met Curtis as an undergraduate student-athlete at Wake Forest University where he earned the prestigious Arnold Palmer Scholarship to play golf.

Curtis's college career was nothing short of remarkable. Many even consider the team that Curtis played on at Wake Forest to be the best collegiate golf team in U.S. history. In fact, *Golf World* called the 1975 Wake Forest team that featured Curtis Strange, Jay Haas, Bob Byman, and David Thore as "the greatest of all-time."

In 1974, Curtis won the Fred Haskins Award that goes to the Nation's top collegiate golfer and was awarded 1st Team All-American honors three years in a row.

In 1974 and 1975, Curtis led the Demon Deacon golf team to two, back-to-back NCAA titles and earned the individual collegiate title in 1974, the same year he won the World Amateur Cup.

Curtis turned professional after his junior year in 1976. Throughout his professional career and particularly in the 1980s, Curtis impressed PGA fans with his unmatched skills proving how excellent a golfer he really is, achieving feats that very few other golfers can say they have achieved. For instance, he posted 17 PGA Tour victories including back-to-back U.S. Open Championships in 1988 and 1989, becoming the first to do that since Ben Hogan in 1950–1951. He has been a member of five

Ryder Cup Teams—1983, 1985, 1987, 1989 and 1995—and in 2002, he was captain of the Ryder Cup team. And Curtis Strange's impressive career has not ended. He currently plays on the senior PGA Tour.

But perhaps one of the most honorable achievements of Curtis Strange was his gracious gift to Wake Forest University. He recently very generously established a golf scholarship fund at Wake Forest. This gesture should not go unnoticed. It shows that Curtis is the type of man who wants to give back to the community that helped him get to where he is today. He wants others to benefit from his success.

Curtis Strange is a good man with a good heart.

I congratulate Curtis on his induction into the World Golf Hall of Fame. I commend him for his outstanding achievements as an athlete, and I honor him as a person.

ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, last night, after months of political posturing, the Senate voted to prevent a massive tax burden from falling on 21 million Americans. Without last night's action, millions of middle-class Americans would have been impacted by the alternative minimum tax, a tax meant to impact only the wealthiest individuals. And while I believe the legislation we passed was not perfect, I would have preferred that we adhere to the pay-go rules that I voted for—it was a compromise I supported.

I must express my disappointment at what it took to get us here. There was no disagreement over whether we should prevent middle-class families from being hit by the AMT. So why would it take months to get this legislation passed? Sadly, the debate surrounded whether or not we should pass the burden of paying for this fix onto the next generation. Republicans wanted to borrow money to pay for this tax cut, while Democrats argued that we should be more responsible and not leave our children with the bill.

In addition to not offsetting the cost of the AMT fix, the Senate failed to pass a tax extenders package. In October, the House passed fully offset legislation that would both fix the AMT and extend certain tax provisions that will expire at the end of the year. These provisions—such as the research and development credit, the tuition deduction, and the deduction for teachers' classroom expenses—are vital to millions of Americans. The Senate had an opportunity to renew these credits and deductions in a fiscally responsible manner. I hope my colleagues will reconsider in the coming weeks and will pass a tax extenders package before we adjourn for the year.

Despite all this, we did the right thing in passing an AMT fix. The AMT was originally intended to prevent the wealthiest Americans from avoiding

paying any income tax. But due to inflation and various changes in tax law, the AMT had morphed and grown—without last night's action, nearly two and a half million families making less than \$75,000 would have to pay the AMT. That is well beyond the scope of what Congress intended when the AMT was put in place, and I am glad we could take the necessary step to prevent that from happening.

I hope my colleagues on the House side will move quickly to get this legislation passed. It is not perfect. Things around here rarely are. And while this bill is fiscally irresponsible, it is equally irresponsible to allow millions of Americans to be hit by a tax that was never intended for them.

REMEMBERING REPRESENTATIVE HENRY HYDE

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in honor of Representative Henry Hyde, who, as we all know, passed away last Thursday. I believe all those who knew Henry will remember him for his sincere moral convictions and his dedication to the country.

Representative Hyde was born in Chicago in 1924. He graduated from Georgetown University, where he was a standout on the basketball team that made it all the way to the 1943 National Championship game. He went on to obtain a law degree from Loyola University.

Henry was in the Navy during World War II, serving in combat in the Philippines. After the war, he served for more than 20 years in the Naval Reserve, eventually obtaining the rank of commander.

In 1974, he was elected to the House of Representatives where he would represent the citizens of the Sixth Congressional District of Illinois for 22 years. During his time in the House, he became known as a steadfast proponent of the rights of the unborn, authoring the Hyde Amendment, which, to this day, ensures that Federal taxpayer funds are not used in the performance of abortions. He was also a stalwart supporter of our Nation's military and firm believer in the need to uphold the rule of law.

Henry and I had the distinct privilege of having our chairmanships of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees overlap for a substantial period of time. We worked together on numerous pieces of legislation and I always enjoyed the passion and energy he brought to every issue. Henry was a very capable legislator and a man of deep convictions. Last month, President Bush honored Representative Hyde by awarding him our Nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. During the ceremony, which Henry could not attend due to his declining health, the President described Henry as a "powerful defender of life, a leading advocate for